

1D9 Georgian Sanders 1909-1910

Her report Nov. 16, 1909 about undesirable conditions in the Training School, and recommendations

Her report Nov 16, 1909 about undesirable conditions
in the training
Original removed to oversized box

POSITIONS HELD AT M.G.H.

SANDERS, Georgiana J.

Was an English-trained nurse (From Parsons: p.107)

Experience

Charge of the training school in the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia (From Parsons:107)

Positions held at M.G.H.

Superintendent of the School from Oct, 1909 to March 1, 1910 (From Parsons: p. 107)

Following Miss Dolliver

Succeeded by Sara E. Parsons

Mrs. Saunders. 11/10/09
By request of the Training School Committee the following facts taken from the report of the Training School have been put together for consideration.

1. The hours on duty of the nurses are very long when considered with the demands of active medical or surgical services carried on under modern methods, and with the amount of class work at present necessary to equip the pupils properly for their work. Through the teaching year, (Oct. 1st to June 1st) one hour out of the two we try to give off duty in the day time has usually to be spent in the class room. The exercise slips show that in consequence the average nurse rarely goes outside the hospital except on her afternoon off: the rest of the week, half an hour on the roof garden or ten minutes in the grounds is usually all the out-door life and this amount is not taken daily.

We feel that the health of pupils is at a disadvantage under these conditions, that the three years training is made more severe a strain than it should be, and that a class of women we should wish to see taking up hospital work are discouraged from attempting it while the conditions are so hard physically.

2. In some departments of the hospital the nursing is below the standards our traditions exact. This is especially noticeable in the wards in the old Bulfinch wing. One of the reasons is that the ward nurses from these wards, are, under existing conditions, on call to other departments, especially to the Out-Patient Department, for tending ether patients, and to take patients to clinics, etc. The result is that too few nurses are on duty to do the work adequately and we have no surplus to draw from.

The remedy for these conditions lying largely in an increase in the numbers of our staff, I have ^{been} requested to report the full capacity of our present nurses' quarters.

11/10/09
G. Sanders

The capacity is as follows:-

Thayer House 109 + 12 (12 rooms are double)	121
6 Mc Lean St. 15 + 4	19
More if heating can be arranged.	
Total	<u>140</u>

The present number of nurses is as follows:-

Pupils	121
Graduates	<u>27</u>
	148

Twenty pupils are taking part of their training outside the hospital, leaving 128 living in the home and 6 Mc Lean St.

Should it be possible to increase the nursing sufficiently to lighten the hours on duty and keep the ward nurses in their own departments, probably fifty-two pupil nurses more would be required, bringing our numbers as follows:-

Pupils	176
Graduates	<u>24</u>
	200

The actual form of increase would be:-

1. Two extra nurses in each ward, with the duties of all confined to the ward and its patients.
2. The Amphitheatre and Out-Patient Department nurses kept for their own departments and not reckoned on the ward staff.
3. Twelve nurses in reserve for vacation or sickness. To give three weeks vacation to each pupil, 10 1/2 must be away all the year round, or 16 at a time if we give the vacations in the spring and summer.

As the wards E, H and B do not usually require so many nurses as the other wards these will supply the numbers for special nursing; this is at present done very largely by outside graduates at a great expense to the hospital and with loss to the pupils of extremely important experience.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Massachusetts General Hospital Nurses' Alumnae Association

<https://archive.org/details/1891d9superinten00sand>

With a larger staff the hours on duty could be reduced to eight and time off duty arranged so that each nurse has sufficient time for exercise and recreation in some of the sunny hours.

The hours might be divided as follows:-

Ward staff 1 head nurse and 6 pupils.

Hours on duty.

2 nurses	7 - 1	4 - 7	
2 "	7 - 10	1 - 4	7 - 9
2 "	7 - 2	5 - 7	
1 "	7 - 12	3 - 6	

other combinations can also be used when necessary.

By having two day nurses on duty from 7 to 9, the important evening work will be less hastily and more efficiently done, and the night nurse, coming on duty at nine instead of seven, will have a ten hour service instead of twelve.

The above time table provided that all nurses are on duty for the heaviest part of the day, and the larger number at the hours when most are required. With the overlapping of the hours of the different nurses all sense of nursing by "shifts" is avoided.

We believe that with shorter hours our nurses would be in a physical condition to do better work, and that with a larger number on duty the individual patient would receive better care.

Nov.10,1909.

1-891D9

Superintendent of Nurses

1 School of Nursing

